

Title: What is an Elephant?

Content Standard B (Grades K-4):

Objects have many observable properties, including size, weight, shape, color, temperature, and the ability to react with other substances.

Standard 1:

Indicator 2.1.7 Recognize and describe ways that some materials, such as recycled paper, cans, and plastic jugs, can be used over and over again.

Standard 2:

Indicator 2.2.5 Draw pictures and write brief descriptions that correctly portray key features of an object.

Background:

According to a fable that was told in India many years ago ("Blind Men and an Elephant"), an elephant is "very much like a wall, a spear, a snake, a tree, a fan, and a rope." An elephant is a sum of its parts: the trunk, ears, teeth, skin, hair, feet, and brain. Come and discover how these parts make the elephant unique from all other land mammals!

Purpose: To explore the parts of an elephant that make the elephant unique.

Materials:

- Pattern of elephant ears (See **Appendix A**)
- Paper (such as butcher paper)
- Variety of craft and home supplies: yarn, plastic milk jugs, toilet paper rolls, toothpicks, construction paper, glue, bendable straws, craft sticks, pipe cleaners, different sizes of Styrofoam balls, etc.
- Handout "How to Draw an Elephant" (See **Appendix B**)
- Poem "Blind Men and an Elephant" (see http://elephant.elehost.com/About_Elephants/Stories/Parables/Blind_Men_Elephant/blind_men_elephant.html)

Activity 1:

1. Ask students the question "if you were asked to describe an elephant how would you describe it"?
2. Read poem "Blind Men and an Elephant".
3. Discuss unique features of the elephant and how those features help the elephant to survive in its habitat.
4. Give the students a pattern for an outline of the ear of a baby elephant.
5. Trace the pattern on butcher paper and cut out.
6. Give the students a pattern for an outline of the ear of an adult elephant.
7. Trace the pattern on butcher paper and cut out.
8. Place these outlines on the bulletin board and discuss the similarities and the

differences of the two outlines.

Activity 2:

1. Give students handout on “How to Draw an Elephant.”
2. Have students draw an African elephant and compare with an Asian elephant. (See **Appendix C**)
3. Provide pictures of elephants from magazines and/or books.
4. Provide craft materials and have the students construct a model of an elephant using these materials.

Extensions:

1. Have students research the different parts of the elephant (trunk, ears, etc.) and describe the functions of these parts.
2. Discuss how the shape of the part of the elephant affects the function.

Assessment:

1. Drawing of the elephant.
2. Cut outs of elephant ears.

Resources/teacher notes:

1. See <http://elephant.elehost.com> for information on anatomy of the elephant (trunk, ears, etc.)

ELEPHANT STATISTICS

Sophi (female) at 33 years:

Ear width (front to back) – 2 feet 10 inches
Ear height (top to lowest part on bottom) 3 feet 10 inches
Front foot circumference – 4 feet 4 inches
Rear foot circumference – 4 feet 1 inch
Height to shoulder – 8 feet 4 inches
Forehead to base of tail length – 11 feet 10 inches
Weight – 9300 pounds

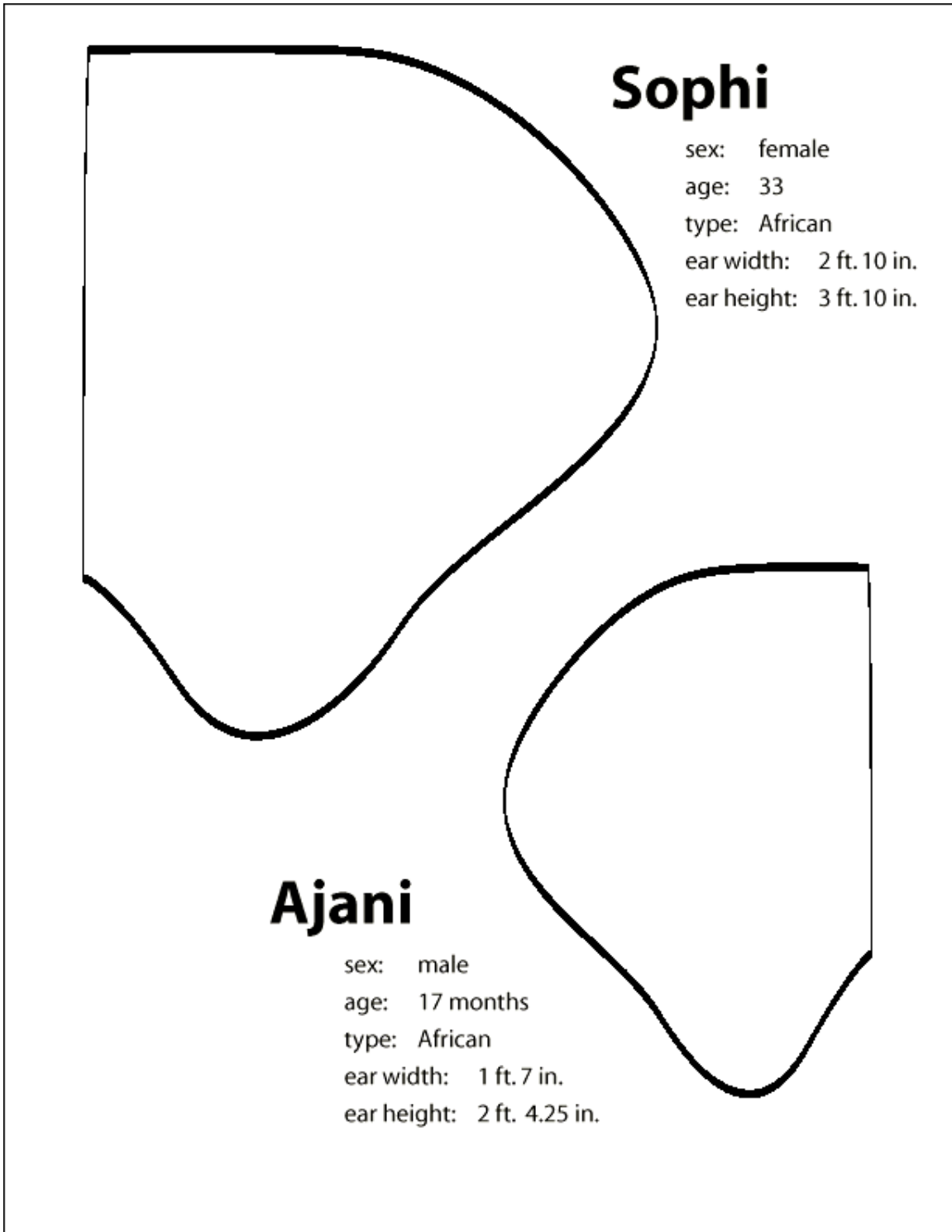
Amali (female) at 22 months:

Ear width – 1 foot 6 1/2 inches
Ear height – 2 feet 5 inches
Front foot – 2 feet 3 inches
Rear foot – 2 feet 3 1/4 inches
Head to tail length – 6 feet 2 inches
Height to shoulder – 4 feet 11 inches
Weight – 1334 pounds

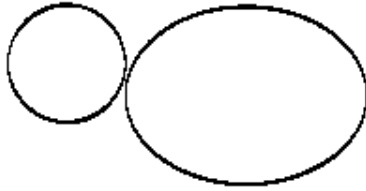
Ajani (male) at 17 months:

Ear width – 1 foot 7 inches
Ear height – 2 feet 4 1/4 inches
Front foot – 2 feet 6 inches
Rear foot – 2 feet 6 1/2 inches
Height to shoulder – 4 feet 9 1/2 inches
Head to tail length – 6 feet
Weight – 1326 pounds

Appendix A



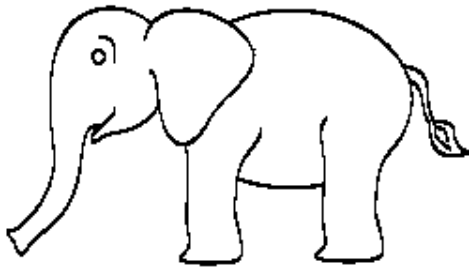
HOW TO DRAW AN ELEPHANT



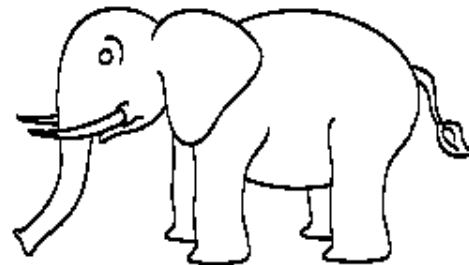
1. Start with a circle and a big oval.



2. Add an eye. Draw a big ear. Add a tail.

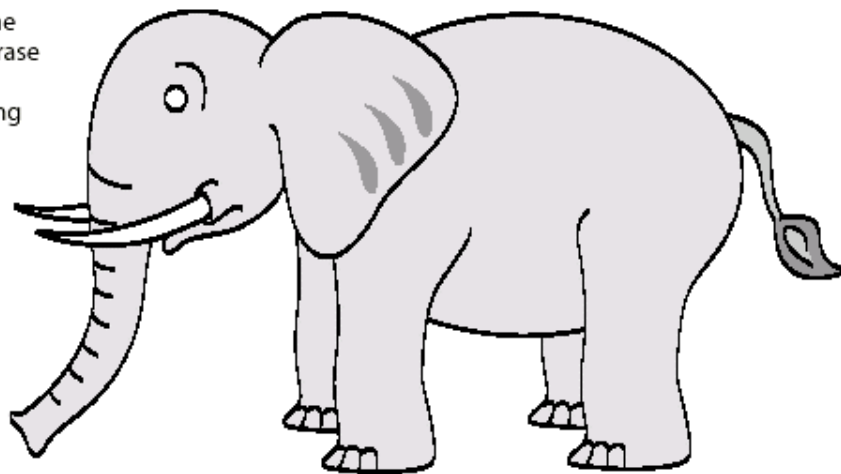


3. Draw the elephant's trunk and mouth. Add two sturdy legs. Finish the tail.



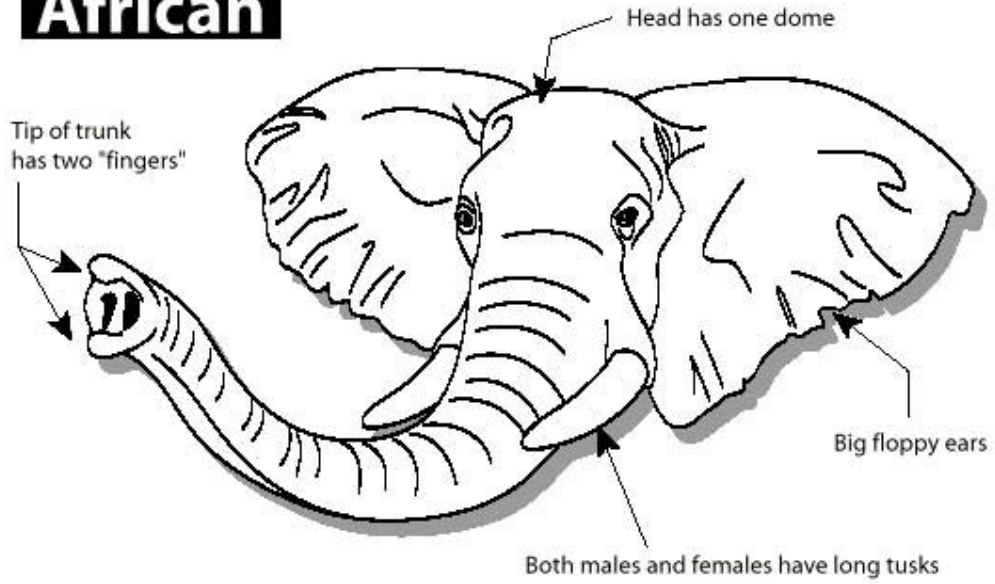
4. Draw two more legs. Add a pair of tusks.

5. To finish the drawing, erase extra lines. Add shading and your elephant is done.



Appendix C

African



Asian

